

Stronghold, Friend's Advice Included In Poolesville Country Homes Tour

Stronghold, the Georgian mansion of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Strong, will be open to the public for the first time on the tenth annual Country Homes Tour sponsored by the Women of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville.

Three other homes are included on the itinerary for this tour, May 16 and 17. On May 16 the tour will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. The May 17 tour is from 1 to 5 p.m. Luncheon will be served on the 16th at Comus Inn, Comus, from noon to 2:30 p.m. There will be a pantry shelf of homemade foods for sale at the Inn.

Stronghold, situated partway up Sugarloaf Mountain, is surrounded by formal gardens and terraced lawns. The large rooms are furnished and each window commands a magnificent view of the Maryland countryside. Sugarloaf Mountain is owned by a non-profit organization founded by Mr. Strong, which continues to maintain the roads, picnic grounds and trails for the enjoyment of the public.

Also to be visited on the Country Homes Tour is Kirkhill Farm, home of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Campbell. Located near Darnestown, it is built from the

ruins of the old Seneca Baptist Church built in the late 1700's. The stone walls are over two feet thick; the beams and floors are of old wood; and two of the doors are original.

Friend's Advice, three miles from Kirkhill, is the home of General and Mrs. Albert C. Wedemeyer. The first owner was Townsend Dade, a colorful and controversial figure. He was educated in England, a close friend of George Washington, and active in anti-British organizations before the Revolution even while performing his duties as an Anglican minister.

After the Revolution his "high living" was frowned upon by his parishioners of Christ Church, Alexandria, Va., and it was on a friend's advice that he retired to his Maryland farm.

To the small clapboard house on the farm Rev. Mr. Dade added a beautifully executed stone addition. Successive generations have lived at Friend's Advice including the present owner, Mrs. Wedemeyer. A Dade grandson added the large front part of the house and the three sections are integrated into today's mansion.

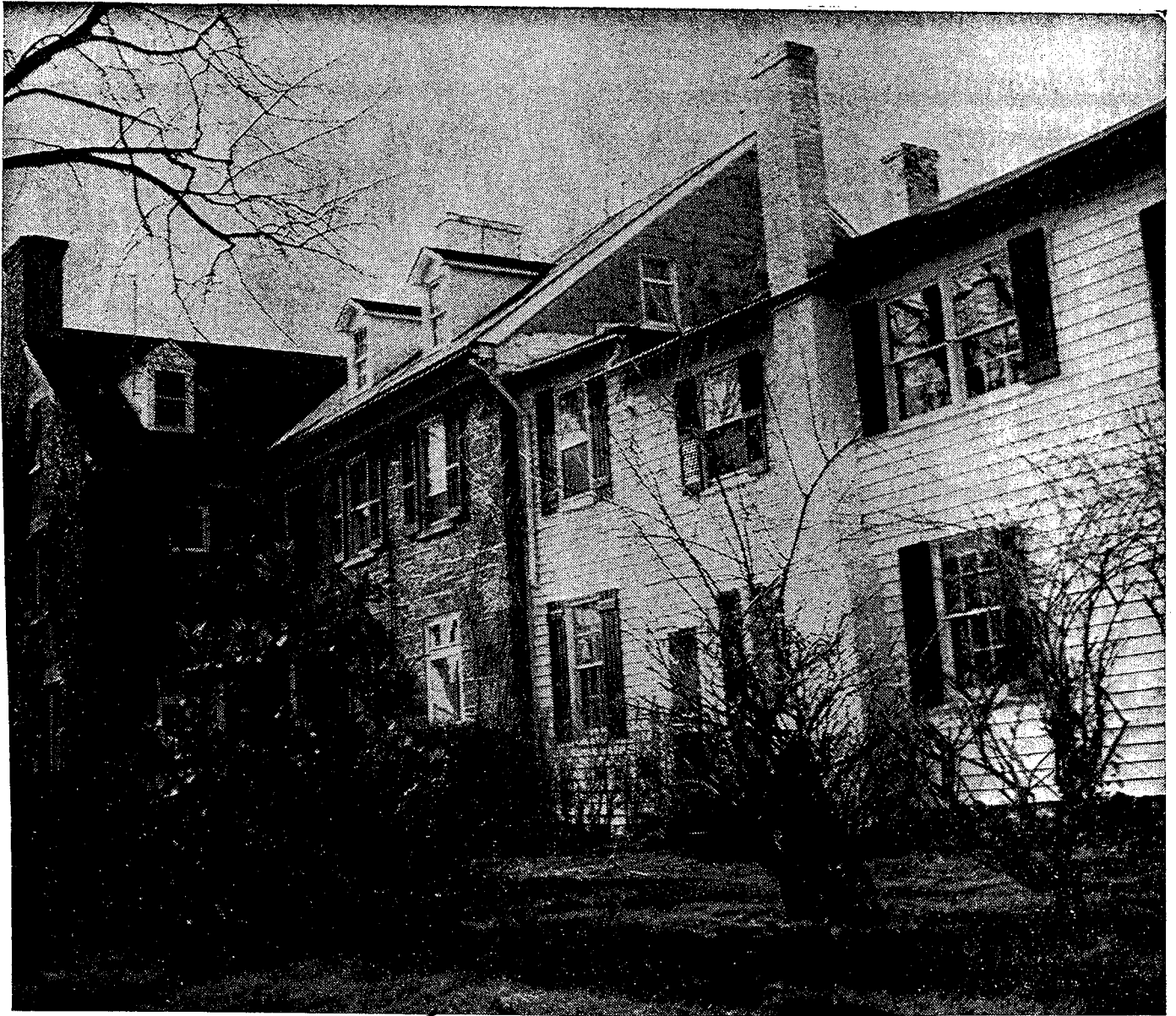
Mrs. Wedemeyer's grandfather

er told her of coming to call on his future wife and seeing the back parlor boarded up and filled with provisions and guns for the protection of the household against marauding bands roving the countryside during the Civil War. Rev. Mr. Dade's son, Col. Robert Townsend Dade was a distinguished officer of the war of 1812.

The house is furnished with antiques and family heirlooms, as well as art objects collected by the Wedemeyers during their years in China.

Sunbeam Farms, home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Clammer, will also be toured. Situated three miles from Friend's Advice on the way to Dickerson, this home was built in 1872. Of particular interest are the outbuildings, slave quarters, schoolhouse and smoke house, arranged around the garden at the back of the house.

Traveling a short way past Dickerson, the tour will visit the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Leroy Bagley. It is a Maryland farmhouse built in the early 1900's. Situated in view of Sugarloaf Mountain, it has been extensively remodeled for present day country living.



FRIEND'S ADVICE — Pictured above is Friend's Advice, home of General and

Mrs. A. C. Wedemeyer, and built by Rev. Townsend Dade, rector of Christ Church, Alex-

andria, Va., in George Washington's day. It is included in the tenth annual Country

Homes Tour, sponsored by the Women of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville, being held May 16 and 17.
